I, ______________________________ understand that

• I am my child’s first teacher.
• Reading is key to my child’s success in school and in life.
• I can help my child develop brain power with the activities I provide outside of school.
• Every day my children miss school, they are losing a chance to learn.

I PLEDGE TO:

• Read, talk, and sing to my child every day.
• Encourage play that involves naming and describing.
• Encourage my children to ask questions about things they see: What? Why? How? What if?
• Teach my children to love reading by having books in our home.
• Take my children to the library every week to pick out books they want to read.
• Help my children develop the habit of on-time attendance.
• Talk to my child’s teacher regularly on how we can help at home.
• Talk to other parents in my community about the importance of reading.

My child’s name: ________________ Date: _______ Signature: ___________________________
PRACTICAL TIPS

You don’t always need to read. A child’s love of reading grows from language, knowledge, and interest.

• Find after-school activities that promote reading and learning.
• Help your children develop the habit of on-time attendance.
• Tell your own stories using pictures in books, magazines, and newspapers.
• Watch and discuss educational TV together, such as nature programs and public television.
• Talk with your children while you’re cooking, shopping, or walking with them.
• Get library cards for every family member. Make reading a part of family life.
• Tell stories about something that happened when you were young.
• Before reading, share the cover and title of the book. Ask your child to guess what’s inside.
• While you read, pause often to ask and answer questions.
• When reading with your child, take turns reading sentences and paragraphs. If your child makes a mistake, don’t interrupt. Wait your turn and then make your point.
• After reading, talk to your child about the story and ask what made it interesting.
• Always praise your child’s efforts and progress.
• Honor homework time and make a special place for your child to study and learn.
• Make these activities a regular and happy part of your child’s daily life.